

Case Management

Initiate Contact Precautions*

- After receipt of positive culture result **OR**
- Preemptively while awaiting results for residents who have risk factors for MRSA:
 - See [ARO Risk Factor-Based Screening Guidance for All Health Care Settings](#)

Communication (Notification)

- Notify the IPAC lead, DOC or CRN
- Flag resident chart
- Post contact precautions sign on room door
- If case was transferred to or from another facility, notify that facility

Room Placement (Accommodation)

- Private room preferred, when possible.
- If a private room is not available, avoid placing with a roommate with open wounds, indwelling devices, uncontained excretions & secretions, poor personal or hand hygiene, immunocompromised or colonized with another ARO.
- Resident Movement: Isolation is not needed if there are no signs or symptoms of infection. Assist resident with performing frequent hand hygiene.

Re-Screening & Discontinuing Contact Precautions

- Re-screen no more frequently than every 3 months.
- To discontinue precautions: 3 negative cultures taken at least one week apart.

Contact Management

Roommates

Does the case have any roommates? If so, were there exposure risks in the room?

Yes

Initiate Contact Precautions

Point Prevalence

Is there evidence of transmission? If so, consider collecting specimens from all residents on the unit/area.

Yes

Consider Contact Precautions based on exposure risk

Collect Specimens

Collect at least 2 sets of specimens* taken on different days, with 1 taken a minimum of 7 days after last exposure.

Positive
Manage as a case

Positive
Manage as a case

Specimen* #1
Date: _____

Specimen* #2
Min 7 days after last exposure
Date: _____

Negative

Negative

After 2 sets of negative cultures collected one week apart

Discontinue Contact Precautions

in consultation with the IPAC lead

Positive

Specimen* #1
Date: _____

If negative:
Collect another swab/sample in 7 days

Positive

Specimen* #2
Date: _____

If negative:
Collect another swab/sample in 7 days

Positive

Specimen* #3
Date: _____

After 3 sets of negative cultures collected one week apart

Any Positive Results: Promptly re-initiate contact precautions and restart screening process.

Discontinue Contact Precautions
in consultation with the IPAC lead

Swab monthly for 6 months

All Negative Results:
Discontinue swabbing.
Additional testing should be based on risk factors.

*Specimens

- Anterior nares **AND** perianal, perineal **OR** groin swab **AND** lesions/wounds, incisions, ulcers, exit sites
- Consult with your lab for more information about test kits and sample submissions.

Environmental Cleaning³

- Routine cleaning & disinfection.
- Dedicated equipment (preferred), if not possible clean and disinfect between residents.

Adapted with permission from HNHB IPAC Hub.

References:

1. PIDAC: [Routine Practices and Additional Precautions Annex A: Screening, testing and Surveillance for antibiotic-resistant organisms \(AROs\), Annexed to: Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings](#), 2013

2. Public Health Ontario: [Antibiotic Resistant Organism \(ARO\) Risk Factor-Based Screening Guidance for All Health Care Settings Screening Checklists](#), 2024

3. Public Health Ontario: [FAQ Significant Organisms in Environmental Cleaning](#), 2024

4. Public Health Ontario: [Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus \(MRSA\)](#)